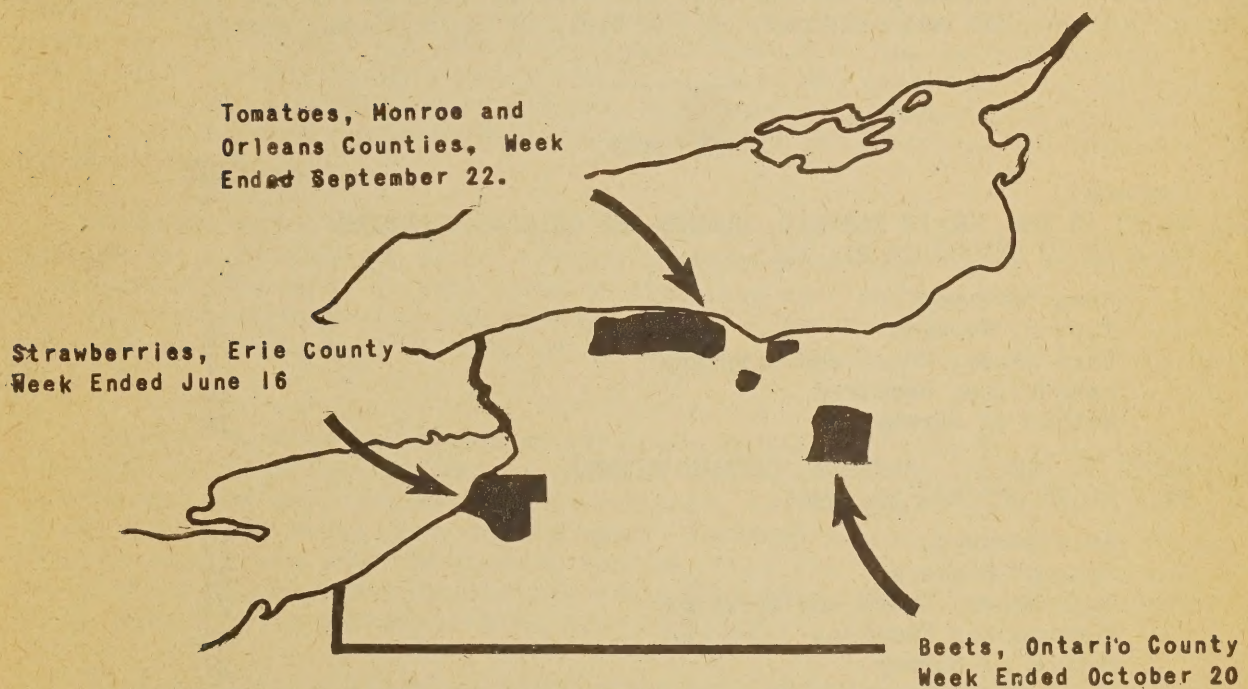


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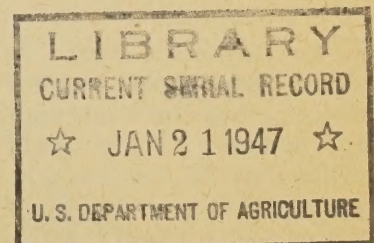
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS IN THE
HARVEST OF TOMATOES, BEETS, AND STRAWBERRIES
IN SELECTED AREAS OF NEW YORK STATE, 1945



Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Report Number 11

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PREFATORY NOTE

This is the eleventh of a series of reports by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presenting results of enumerative sample surveys of farm wages and farm wage rates. The surveys were planned under the general direction of Conrad Taeuber, Office of the Chief, by a Bureau-wide Committee with Louis J. Ducoff as chairman. Members of the Wage Project Committee are Glen T. Barton, Emerson M. Brooks, Charles F. Cannell, Charles A. Gibbons, Margaret Jarman Hagood, Roger F. Hale, Earl E. Houseman, Barbara B. Reagan. The State Agricultural Statisticians cooperated in conducting the field operations of the surveys.

The surveys include collection of information on wages and wage rates of seasonal farm workers in special crop areas of various States. This report presents the information obtained on three groups of seasonal farm workers in New York State. In addition to reports on wages of harvest workers in special crop areas, other reports are being issued presenting wage and related information for all hired farm workers, both regular and seasonal, on the basis of the national surveys.

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Prepared by Catherine Senf, Helen Clark and Elizabeth Christen. Special acknowledgment is made to local representatives of the U. S. Employment Service and to the county agents in the respective counties for assistance in organizing these surveys. Members of the staffs of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and of the Farm Manpower Service, New York State War Council, assisted with numerous details of the field work and tabulating and analyzing the data, under the general supervision of R. L. Gillett, State Agricultural Statistician.

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF SEASONAL FARM WORKERS IN THE
HARVEST OF TOMATOES, BEETS AND STRAWBERRIES, IN
SELECTED AREAS OF NEW YORK STATE, 1945

SUMMARY

Tomato Harvest Wages.--About 2,500 paid workers were employed in the tomato harvest in Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, during the third week of September 1945. Average earnings were \$1.04 per hour.

These estimates are obtained from a survey of farms including about a fourth of the tomato acreage in the two counties. Rains interfered with work on several days during this peak harvest week, and workers were able to average only 32 hours of labor on the reporting farms.

Because of cool wet weather, tomatoes matured late this year, shortening the usual harvest period. Ninety-eight percent of the workers on the sample tomato farms were principally engaged in the tomato harvest during the survey week. Practically the entire labor force had to be recruited especially for the harvest season, as only 7 percent of the workers were regularly employed on the reporting farms. A number of labor contractors were engaged in recruiting and transporting labor to the farms.

Domestic white workers, who made up over half of the total work force, had average daily earnings of \$7.20. Thirty percent of domestic white workers were females. Of the males in this group who reported age, about a third were outside the 18 to 64 years age bracket, mostly younger. Domestic Negroes, who included only males, made up about a tenth of all workers and had average daily earnings of \$9.80.

About a third of the sample workers were foreigners, chiefly Jamaican nationals, although the total included 75 prisoners of war. Despite the low earnings of the latter, who were employed at 50 cents per hour, the foreign group as a whole earned 40 percent of all wages paid for the week. Jamaican nationals received a somewhat lower average piece rate for picking tomatoes than did domestic piece workers, but their relatively high hourly earnings confirm the reputation for great industry which these foreign workers have in this locality.

Tomato pickers employed at piece rates had average earnings of \$1.33 per hour, more than double the 60 cents per hour average for time-work pickers. Workers paid hourly rates included much of the locally recruited emergency help, in addition to the prisoners of war. Domestic time workers generally were paid at rates of 60 to 80 cents per hour.

Despite rains which curtailed field operations during the survey week, the average weekly earnings for the 343 workers not reported in crews was about \$32.00. Piece workers averaged \$38.10 and a third of them earned \$50.00 or more.

Sixty-one percent of all workers received perquisites of some kind in addition to cash wages. Very few of the seasonal workers received board and room, but many received house, lodging, or transportation.

Beet Harvest Wages.--An estimated 670 paid workers were employed in Ontario County, New York, to harvest beets during the third week of October 1945. Average earnings were 62 cents per hour. This rate represents the equivalent hourly earnings for all methods of payment for all beet harvest workers. About 40 percent of these workers were under 18 or over 64 years of age.

Data for the estimates were secured from a survey of farms including about a third of the beet acreage in Ontario County. Although weather was favorable during the survey week, water was standing on many of the fields, with the result that beet harvest workers were able to average only 29 hours of work on the reporting farms. The total wage bill of farmers for beet harvest labor during the week is estimated at about \$12,000. This represents only a small fraction of the total wage bill for the beet harvest season in the county, which extended from mid-September until late November.

Workers regularly employed on sample farms earned 42 cents per hour, or \$23.10 for 56 hours of work during the survey week. Although seasonal workers, including all females in the sample, earned 66 cents per hour, these workers were able to average only 27 hours of work in the week, with average weekly earnings of \$17.50. All regular workers were males employed at time rates. Seasonal workers paid at piece rates averaged 72 cents an hour, compared with 54 cents an hour for seasonal workers paid by the day or by the hour.

Ninety-seven percent of the workers in the sample were domestic whites; 66 percent were males. Of the 250 hired workers employed on sample beet farms during the survey week, 89 percent were engaged exclusively in beet harvest work. ^{1/} Nineteen percent of all hired workers in the sample were regularly employed (expected to have 150 or more days of employment on reporting farm in 1945); the remaining 81 percent had to be recruited for the harvest season. Nearly half of the workers included in the survey were seasonal workers employed at piece rates; 35 percent were paid by the hour; and the remaining 17 percent were employed at time rates other than hourly rates.

The 63 sample workers outside the age bracket of 18 to 64 years included 61 percent of all female workers and 34 percent of all male workers. Most female workers, as well as the older men and younger boys, were engaged in pulling or pulling and topping beets by hand. Children were often employed to pull beets to clear a roadway for a mechanical harvester. All machine operators were males.

Eighty-nine percent of all regularly employed domestic (non-foreign) white workers received perquisites in addition to cash wages, most frequently house or lodging without meals. Of the seasonally employed domestic white workers, only 26 percent received perquisite items, usually transportation or one meal a day. The value of perquisites may be judged roughly from the fact that comparable classes of workers not receiving house or lodging generally had hourly earnings 10 to 20 cents higher than those receiving these items.

Strawberry Harvest Wages.—Strawberry pickers in Erie County, New York, averaged 36 cents an hour during the week ended June 16, 1945. Erie County is the leading strawberry county in the State, with more than one-third of New York's total strawberry acreage. Over two-thirds of the strawberry pickers were under 18 years of age. Pickers under 18 years averaged 31 cents an hour compared with 54 cents for adults. Many of the pickers came from the families of industrial workers in Buffalo and other nearby cities and lived in camps during the strawberry harvest. The strawberry pickers averaged 51.2 hours of work during the week and \$18.40 in cash wages. As the survey covered the first week of the harvest, pickings were lighter and earnings were lower than at the peak of the harvest.

^{1/} Truck drivers hired on a custom work basis were not included in this sample of hired farmworkers.

I. WAGES IN THE TOMATO HARVEST, MONROE AND ORLEANS COUNTIES,
WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 22, 1945 1/

Area Surveyed.--Monroe and Orleans counties on Lake Ontario are the two leading counties in tomato acreage in New York State, with about 4500 acres in each county. As the tomatoes ripen slowly, there is usually a small picking for fresh market and a somewhat heavier picking of "green wraps" before the main harvest of cannery tomatoes. In 1945 the "green wrap" pick was heavier than usual because of favorable prices. Many farmers in this area contract to deliver their entire crop of ripe tomatoes to canneries.

During the week of the survey, practically all tomatoes harvested were moved to nearby canneries. The harvest proceeded as rapidly as weather and labor conditions permitted, but wet weather shortened by a full week the usual four-week harvest period. Rains hampered the harvest as a whole and halted field work on two days during the survey week. Tomato yields in this area were well below average and farmers were anxious to salvage what they could of the poor crop before further damage would be incurred by rain or frost. The bidding for available labor was keen.

With the end of the war, some industrial workers in nearby cities were being laid off and active recruitment programs were inaugurated by the United States Employment Service and the Extension Service to induce these people and under-employed persons to assist in the harvest work. In addition to the need for field workers in tomatoes, there were heavy demands for seasonal labor in the peach harvest and in the canneries. Of these jobs, tomato picking is the most difficult as it involves much stooping and requires frequent moving of the heavy hampers. Industrial workers were loath to shift immediately to work in the fields at farm wage rates especially as many of these workers were eligible for unemployment compensation. Much of the help recruited locally for the tomato harvest was made up of young persons not previously in the labor force, and of housewives working part time. Rochester is the only large city close enough for recruitment of day laborers into the tomato area. A number of contractors were engaged in recruiting day laborers in Rochester and transporting them to the farms, particularly to the Monroe County farms which are within 20 miles of this city. In Orleans County, a cooperative association of growers maintains a camp for seasonal workers.

While many of the tomato farms in the area surveyed have small acreages, most of them use some hired labor for the harvest. This season's crop required about 7 to 10 man-days of harvest labor to the acre, or a total for the two counties of about 75,000 man-days. About a fourth of this labor requirement was supplied by unpaid family labor, the remainder representing a three weeks' job for about 3,000 hired workers.

During the sample enumerations, farms accounting for a fourth of all tomato acreage in the two counties were visited. Many of these farms had no hired harvest workers during the survey week, because they had already completed or had not yet started harvesting. Farms with small labor requirements find it more efficient to hire a crew of pickers for a few days rather than to use a smaller number of workers for a longer period.

Table 1.--Distribution of Sample Farms and Hired Workers by Acreage of Tomatoes, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945

Acres of Tomatoes	: Number of Farms 1/	: Total Number of Hired Workers 2/	: Average Hired Workers per Farm
Total	135	714	5.3
1 - 9	74	249	3
10 - 19	45	298	7
20 - 29	11	72	7
30 and over	5	95	19

1/ This is the number of farms having hired workers harvesting tomatoes during the survey week.

2/ This is the total number of workers on sample farms. Totals appearing in subsequent tables will sometimes be smaller because not all items were reported for all workers.

Of the tomato farms visited, 135 used hired harvest labor during the survey week. They had a total of 714 hired workers, or an average of 5.3 per farm. Seventy-four farms had less than 10 acres of tomatoes, and these averaged three hired workers each. The remaining farms had tomato acreages ranging up to 65 acres.

Table 2.--Distribution of Sample Tomato Farms by Number of Hired Workers, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945 1/

Number of Hired Workers	: Number of Farms	: Per-cent
Total	135	100
1	18	14
2	23	17
3	23	17
4	22	16
5	9	7
6	6	4
7	7	5
8	7	5
9	3	2
10 and over	17	13

1/ Only farms having one or more hired workers harvesting tomatoes during the survey week were included in the sample.

Eighteen of the sample farms had only 1 hired worker each, while a larger number had 2 workers, 3 workers and 4 workers each. Farms with larger numbers of employees were relatively few, but 17 farms reported having 10 or more workers each.

Information was obtained from 122 farms on the total hired harvest labor requirements, and 27 farms reported less than 25 man-days needed. Thirty-one farms, or 25 percent of those reporting, cited labor requirements of 100 man-days or more. The average for all farms was 77 man-days.

Table 3.--Distribution of Sample Farms by Man-days Hired Labor Requirements for the Tomato Harvest, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, 1945.

Man-days Hired Labor Requirements	Number of Farms	Percent of Total
Total reporting	122	100
Under 25	27	22
25 - 49	34	28
50 - 99	30	25
100 - 149	16	13
150 - 199	5	4
200 and over	10	8
Average per farm	77	

The above distribution of farms should not be taken as representative of all tomato farms in the area, but only of those hiring tomato harvest labor during a specified short period (the survey week). Thus they tend to include larger-than-average farms.

Type of Workers.--Of the 714 workers employed on sample farms during the survey week, all but 13 were principally engaged in picking tomatoes. This work classification often includes incidental jobs connected with the harvest, such as loading hampers or crates onto trucks, where the operation is not large-scale enough to involve a specialization of tasks. This report will be chiefly concerned with wage rates, hours and earnings of tomato pickers, except for occasional reference to the "other workers" and the totals for all workers employed on the tomato farms.

Table 4.--Distribution of Hired Tomato Harvest Workers on Each Operation by Source, Race, Sex, Age and Duration of Employment, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945

Item Reported	All Operations		Piece-Work Pickers		Time-Work Pickers		Other Workers	
	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent	Num- ber	Per- cent
Total Reporting Source	714	100	400	100	301	100	13	100
Domestic	505	71	276	69	216	72	13	100
Prisoners of War	75	10	-	-	75	25	-	-
Other Foreign 1/	134	19	124	31	10	3	-	-
Total Reporting Race (Excluding Foreign Workers)	505	100	276	100	216	100	13	100
White	436	86	238	86	186	86	12	92
Negro	69	14	38	14	30	14	1	8

(Table continued on Page 6)

Table 4.--Distribution of Hired Tomato Harvest Workers on Each Operation by Source, Race, Sex, Age and Duration of Employment, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945. (Concluded)

Item Reported	: All		: Piece-Work:		Time-Work :		Other	
	: Operations:		Pickers		: Pickers		: Workers	
	: Num--:Per-		: Num--:Per-		: Num--:Per-		: Num--:Per-	
	ber	cent	ber	cent	ber	cent	ber	cent
Total Reporting Age-Sex	: 690	100	: 388	100	: 289	100	: 13	100
	:		:		:		:	
Males 18-64	: 242	35	: 177	46	: 53	18	: 12	92
Older and Younger Males	: 67	10	: 45	11	: 21	7	: 1	8
Males, Age not Specified <u>2/</u>	: 256	37	: 101	26	: 155	54	: -	-
Females	: 125	18	: 65	17	: 60	21	: -	-
	:		:		:		:	
Total Reporting Duration of Employment:	: 714	100	: 400	100	: 301	100	: 13	100
	:		:		:		:	
Total Regular (150 days and over)	: 51	7	: 3	1	: 37	12	: 11	86
Total Seasonal (Less than 150 days)	: 663	93	: 397	99	: 264	88	: 2	14
75 - 149 days	: 24	3	: 8	2	: 15	5	: 1	7
30 - 74 days	: 55	8	: 40	10	: 14	5	: 1	7
1 - 29 days	: 232	33	: 192	48	: 40	13	: -	-
Days not specified <u>3/</u>	: 352	49	: 157	39	: 195	65	: -	-
	:		:		:		:	

1/ "Other foreign" workers are imported nationals, mostly Jamaicans.

2/ Information on age was not obtained for workers reported in crews.

3/ Information on employment duration was not obtained for the 352 workers reported in crews, who are assumed to be seasonal workers.

Seventy-five of the 701 pickers were prisoners of war and 134 were other foreign workers, nearly all Jamaican nationals. Eighty-six percent of the domestic (non-foreign) workers were whites, and 14 percent Negroes. More than half the farms using crews of domestic workers had hired these crews through contractors. This practice was more prevalent in Monroe County than in Orleans County. All labor contractors in Monroe County are registered at the U. S. Employment office in Rochester, and they use the facilities of this office in recruiting workers. The services provided by contractors and the arrangements existing between farmers, contractors and workers were quite varied.

Some contractors undertook complete responsibility for the harvest, including payment of the workers. In a typical arrangement of this kind, the farmer paid the contractor \$8.00 per ton, and the contractor paid the workers 10 cents per 33 lb. hamper. Some contractors received fees for services from the farmers and had no further dealings with the workers. One contractor received a share of the crop and paid the workers 10 cents per hamper for picking tomatoes. Many of the contractor-recruited workers received time rates, which ranged from 75 cents to \$1.07 per hour.

Only 40 of the pickers were regular workers (persons with expected duration of employment of 150 days or more on the reporting farm). Of the 311 seasonal workers for whom employment duration was reported, 232 were to be employed for less than 30 days. These workers were probably hired for the tomato harvest. Eighteen percent were expected to have employment of 30 to 74 days, and these were probably hired for the harvest of additional crops such as peaches and cabbage, which also mature about this time. In normal years the apple crop also requires a considerable amount of harvest labor. The 352 workers for whom employment duration was not specified were crew workers, presumably hired for the tomato harvest.

Table 5.--Distribution of Hired Tomato Pickers by Race-Source and Age-Sex, Monroe and Orleans counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Age-Sex	: All : Domestic: Domestic: Imported: Prisoners				
	: Pickers	: White	: Negro	: Foreign	: of War
Total reporting <u>1/</u>					
Number	652	393	50	134	75
Percent	100	100	100	100	100
Total Males, Percent	82	70	100	100	100
Males 18-64, Percent	35	34	22	64	-
Males older & younger, Percent	10	16	-	-	-
Males age not specified <u>2/</u> Percent	37	20	78	36	100
Total Females, Percent	18	30	-	-	-

1/ Only those pickers classifiable by both race-source and sex are included in this table. Thirty-one white workers and 18 negroes could not be cross classified by sex.

2/ Information was not requested for age of workers reported in crews.

Nearly a fifth of all workers were females, and of the 309 males reporting age, a fifth were under 18 or over 64 years old. All female workers and males under 18 and over 64 reported were domestic white workers.

Wage Rates, Hours and Earnings.--Fifty-seven percent of all pickers worked for piece rates, this method of payment being more prevalent in Orleans County than in Monroe. Thirty-five percent of all pickers received hourly rates and the remaining eight percent received time rates of various forms other than hourly rates.

Table 6.--Distribution of Sample Tomato Pickers by Method of Payment, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Unit of Payment	: Total Both Counties:		Monroe County		Orleans County	
	: Number of:		: Number of:		: Number of:	
	: Pickers	: Percent	: Pickers	: Percent	: Pickers	: Percent
Total- All Units	701	100	333	100	368	100
Total reporting						
Piece Units	400	57	123	37	277	75
Hampers <u>1/</u>	363	52	112	34	251	68
Crates <u>2/</u>	37	5	11	3	26	7
Total reporting						
Time Units	301	43	210	63	91	25
Hour	248	35	191	58	57	16
Day	21	3	5	1	16	4
Week	12	2	4	1	8	2
Month	20	3	10	3	10	3

1/ Hampers are usually reported as 32 or 33 pound hampers.

2/ Crates are usually reported as 55- 60 per ton.

Table 7.--Piece-work Tomato Pickers: Distribution of Domestic and Foreign Workers by Rates Received, and Related Information, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Rate per Hamper	: Total Pickers		: Domestic Pickers		: Foreign Pickers	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
Total reporting rate per hamper (5/8 bu.)	327	100	212	100	115	100
\$.08	81	25	16	7	65	56
.10	223	68	175	82	48	42
.12	14	4	12	6	2	2
.14	1	1	1	1	-	-
.15	8	2	8	4	-	-

Related information for piece-work pickers 1/

Average hourly earnings	\$1.33	\$1.16	\$1.56
Average number of hampers picked per hour	14.3	11.6	17.8
Average rate per hamper	\$.093	\$.100	\$.088

1/ Average hourly earnings are based on all piece-work pickers; average number of hampers per hour are based on pickers paid by the hamper and reporting number of hampers picked; average rate per hamper is obtained by dividing average earnings by average performance per hour, and thus corresponds to an average weighted by hampers picked.

Practically all of the piece-work pickers were paid by the hamper of five-eighths bushel. A few who were paid wages per crate have been omitted from the analysis of performance of pieceworkers. Two-thirds of the pickers on piece rates received 10 cents per hamper, and the remainder from 8 to 15 cents. Domestic pickers received somewhat higher rates per hamper than foreign pickers, but the latter worked faster and had higher average hourly earnings. Domestic pickers averaged 12 hampers per hour and foreign pickers, 18. Thus the average hourly earnings of foreign piece-work pickers were \$1.56, while those of domestic piece-work pickers were \$1.16.

The weighted average rate per hamper (or average cost) for all piece-workers is 9.3 cents, and the average hourly earnings \$1.33.

Table 8.--Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Earnings of Piece and Time Work Pickers and Other Workers on Tomato Farms, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Type of Workers	: Number of		: Hourly : Earnings	: Hours Worked:		: Daily : Earnings
	: Workers			: Per Day		
Total Reporting Wages	626		\$1.02	8.2		\$8.40
All Tomato Pickers	614		1.04	8.2		8.50
Piece-work Pickers	359		1.33	8.2		10.90
Time-work Pickers	255		.60	8.1		4.90
All Other Workers	12		.53	8.1		4.30

With an 8.2 hour day, piece-work pickers averaged \$10.90 daily earnings. Time-work pickers averaged 60 cents per hour, with resultant daily earnings of \$4.90. The average earning of all pickers was \$1.04 per hour. The twelve "other workers" on the sample farms had average earnings of 53 cents per hour, or \$4.30 per day.

Table 9.--Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Earnings of Piece and Time Work Tomato Pickers, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

County and Type of Workers	: Number of : Workers	: Hourly : Earnings	: Hours Worked: : Per Day	: Daily : Earnings
Total pickers - both counties	614	\$1.04	8.2	\$8.50
All pickers - Monroe county	256	.92	7.8	7.20
Piece-work pickers	89	1.41	7.8	10.90
Time-work pickers	167	.61	7.8	4.80
All pickers - Orleans county	358	1.11	8.4	9.40
Piece-work pickers	270	1.30	8.4	10.90
Time-work pickers	88	.60	8.5	5.10

In Orleans County, where a much larger percentage of workers was employed at piece rates than was the case in Monroe County, average hourly earnings were \$1.11, or 19 cents higher than in Monroe County. Piece-workers earned more than twice as much as time-workers in each county.

Table 10.--Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Earnings of Piece and Time Work Tomato Pickers by Race and Source, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Type of Workers	: Number of: : Workers	: Hourly : Earnings	: Hours Worked: : Per Day	: Daily : Earnings
Total Domestic and Foreign Pickers	614	\$1.04	8.2	\$8.50
All Domestic	412	.95	8.0	7.60
Piece-workers	242	1.16	8.0	9.30
Time-workers	170	.66	8.1	5.30
White 1/	333	.89	8.1	7.20
Piece-workers	208	1.09	8.1	8.80
Time-workers	125	.62	8.2	5.10
Negro 1/	20	1.19	8.2	9.80
Piece-workers	14	1.21	8.2	9.90
Time-workers	6	1.06	8.0	8.50
All Foreign	202	1.18	8.4	10.00
Piece-workers 2/	117	1.56	8.6	13.40
Time-workers 3/	85	.51	8.1	4.10

- 1/ The domestic white and domestic Negro categories do not add to the total domestic because 59 pickers (24 Negroes and 35 whites) were reported in mixed crews and wages could not be separated.
- 2/ Nearly all foreign piece-workers are imported Jamaican nationals.
- 3/ Nearly all foreign time-workers are prisoners of war earning 50 cents per hour.

Of the 68 domestic Negro pickers, only 20 were reported on individually or in separate crews so that their earnings could be separated from those of domestic white pickers. These 20 had average hourly earnings of \$1.19, or 30 cents higher than those for domestic white pickers.

The differences between the hourly earnings of piece and time workers are not as great as for the total sample, when similar types of workers are compared. Thus while hourly earnings of all time-workers are 45 percent of corresponding earnings for piece-workers, for domestic whites the percentage is 57 and for domestic Negroes, 88. Foreigners working by time rates and by piece rates are comprised of two entirely different types of workers (prisoners and imported nationals respectively) -- and between these two groups the differential is more striking: 51 cents per hour for time-workers and \$1.56 for piece-workers.

The data in Table 10 suggest that differences in earnings and presumably in performance of piece and time workers are attributable in large measure to the different types of workers paid by these methods, and only partly to the different incentives to performance, resulting from these methods of payment.

Farmers who contract with the government for the use of foreign workers must guarantee a fixed amount of employment as well as the payment of "prevailing rates." All foreign workers are reported as having a somewhat longer work-day than other workers, with average daily earnings of \$10.00.

Rough estimates of the total man-hours of harvest labor contributed by all foreign workers, compared with the total by domestic workers, appear in Table 11. These totals for the survey week represent about a fourth of the total wage bill for the short tomato harvest season in this area.

Table 11.--Estimated Total Man-hours and Earnings of Domestic and Foreign Workers, Tomato Harvest, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Type of Workers	:Estimated Total		: Average :		Estimated Total	
	: Man-hours 1/		: Hourly :		Wages	
	: Number	: Percent	: Earnings:	Dollars	: Percent	
Total	80,000	100	\$1.04	83,000	100	
Domestic	52,000	65	.95	50,000	60	
Foreign	28,000	35	1.18	33,000	40	
Prisoners	8,000	10	.50	4,000	5	
Other foreign	20,000	25	1.47	29,000	35	

1/ These rough estimates of total man-hours were obtained by adjusting sample totals for incompleteness in reports of hours worked, and dividing by 25 percent, the approximate proportion of all the tomato acreage under harvest, which was included in the sample.

These data indicate that about 35 percent of all hired work done in the tomato harvest during the survey week was by foreign workers. About 8,000 hours, or 10 percent, were put in by prisoners of war, and 25 percent of the hired labor was performed by imported Jamaican and Bahaman nationals. Foreign workers earned about 40 percent of all wages paid for the week. Five percent of the total was earned by prisoners and 35 percent, or about \$29,000, was earned by the imported nationals. Domestic workers employed in the harvest earned about \$50,000 during the week.

Table 12.--Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Earnings of Piece and Time Work Tomato Pickers by Age and Sex, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Type of Workers	: Number of : Workers	: Hourly : Earnings	: Hours Worked: : Per Day	: Daily : Earnings
Total Males and Females <u>1/</u>	614	\$1.04	8.2	\$8.50
Males - all ages	456	1.02	8.3	8.50
18-64	199	1.17	8.6	10.00
Under 18 and over 64	59	.66	8.2	5.40
Age not specified <u>2/</u>	198	.97	8.0	7.80
Females - all ages	73	.89	7.9	7.00

1/ Includes 85 workers (49 males and 36 females) reported in mixed crews. Wages for these workers could not be separated and therefore do not appear in the "total males" and "total females" categories.

2/ Information was not requested for age of workers reported in crews, which included 198 males for whom wages could be separated from those of females.

For most workers in the sample it was possible to separate the earnings of males and females, although for a few mixed crews only total earnings were reported. Average hourly earnings of the 456 males were 13 cents above those for the 73 females. Women had a slightly shorter work-day than men, and averaged \$7.00 per day. Age information was not obtained for workers reported in crews, but of the males not so reported 30 percent were under 18 or over 64. These had average hourly earnings of 66 cents, compared with \$1.17 for the males 18 to 64, and 97 cents for males reported in crews. Males 18 to 64 had an average workday of 8.6 hours, with average earnings of \$10.00 per day.

Weekly time worked and earnings can be accurately computed only for those workers reported upon individually, of whom there were 343, including 331 pickers and 12 other workers. The workers thus excluded are not proportionally distributed among all categories, and for this reason any overall averages for the 331 workers would be unrepresentative. However, a number of comparisons of sub-groups of the individually reported workers are possible. Comparisons appearing in Tables 13, 14 and 15 are for the weekly time worked and earnings on the reporting farm.

Table 13.--Time Worked and Earnings of Piece and Time Work Tomato Pickers and Other Workers not Reported in Crews, by Size of Tomato Acreage, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945 1/

Type of Workers and Size of Tomato Acreage	: : Number: : of : Work- : ers	: Earnings on Re- : porting Farm : Hour- : ly	: Dai- : ly	: Week- : ly	: Time Worked on : Reporting Farm : Hours : per : Day	: Days : per : Week	: Hours : per : Week
All Piece-work Tomato Pickers	229	\$1.27	\$10.50	\$38.10	8.3	3.6	30
1 - 9 acres of tomatoes	77	1.19	9.90	29.10	7.5	3.3	25
10 - 19 acres of tomatoes	74	1.33	11.30	39.70	8.5	3.5	30
20 - 29 acres of tomatoes	20	1.39	11.20	49.20	8.0	4.4	35
30 and over acres of tomatoes	58	1.23	11.20	44.00	9.2	3.9	36

(Table continued on page 12)

Table 13.--Time Worked and Earnings of Piece and Time Work Tomato Pickers and Other Workers not Reported in Crews, by Size of Tomato Acreage, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945. 1/ (Concluded)

Type of Workers and Size of Tomato Acreage	: Number: : of : Work- : ers :	Earnings on Re- : porting Farm			Time Worked on : Reporting Farm		
		: Hour-	: Dai-	: Week-	: Hours	: Days	: Hours
		: ly	: ly	: ly	: per	: per	: per
		: : : : : :	: : : : : :	: : : : : :	: Day	: Week	: Week
All Time-work Tomato Pickers	102	\$.57	\$ 4.90	\$20.90	8.5	4.3	37
1 - 9 acres of tomatoes	69	.53	4.40	17.80	8.2	4.1	34
10 - 19 acres of tomatoes	23	.60	5.40	25.50	9.0	4.7	42
20 - 29 acres of tomatoes	10	.70	6.50	31.30	9.3	4.8	45
30 and over acres of tomatoes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Other Workers	12	.53	4.30	22.00	8.1	5.1	41

1/ Crew workers are excluded from this table because weekly time worked and earnings are not available. Crews included 283 pickers reporting wages as follows: 75 war prisoners (all those reporting wages), 51 other foreign workers, and 157 domestic workers. These crews contained a disproportionate number of time-workers, and therefore combined totals of piece and time workers have not been obtained.

As is usually true for a short harvest job, workers on the larger farms put in longer hours during the survey week on the reporting farms. Many of the work-weeks on smaller farms probably represent only fractions of weeks terminated by completion of the harvest, and it is likely that the weekly earnings reported on these farms were often supplemented by unreported work on other farms. All time-work pickers averaged a 37-hour week, compared with 30 hours for piece-workers. With an average week of 25 hours, piece-work pickers on the smallest farms had average weekly earnings of \$29.00, while those on the largest farms averaged \$44.00 for a 36-hour week. Corresponding earnings of time-work pickers varied from \$18.00 to \$31.00, and hours from 34 to 45. No individual time-workers were reported on farms with over 30 acres of tomatoes. The 12 "other workers" who averaged 53 cents per hour put in more days during the week than the pickers and had average weekly earnings of \$22.00.

Table 14.--Time Worked and Earnings of Piece and Time Work Tomato Pickers Not Reported in Crews by Sex, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945 1/

Type of Workers	: Number: : of : Work- : ers :	Earnings on : Reporting Farm			Time Worked on : Reporting Farm		
		: Hour-	: Dai-	: Week-	: Hours	: Days	: Hours
		: ly	: ly	: ly	: per	: per	: per
		: : : : : :	: : : : : :	: : : : : :	: Day	: Week	: Week
All Piece-work Tomato Pickers	229	\$1.27	\$10.50	\$38.10	8.3	3.6	30
Males	188	1.30	11.00	40.90	8.4	3.7	31
Females	41	1.05	8.10	25.00	7.7	3.1	24
All Time-work Tomato Pickers	102	.57	4.90	20.90	8.5	4.3	37
Males	70	.52	4.50	20.30	8.7	4.5	39
Females	32	.72	5.90	22.00	8.2	3.7	30

1/ See footnote, Table 13.

All female piece-workers not reported in crews averaged 24 hours of work on the reporting farms during the survey week and their weekly earnings averaged \$25.00. Male piece-workers had 31 hours of work, for which they averaged \$41.00. The 32 female time-workers had average hourly earnings higher than the 70 male time-workers. The latter group includes most of the regular farm workers, and a large proportion of the males outside the 18 to 64 age bracket.

Table 15.--Time Worked and Earnings of Seasonal Workers and Regular Workers Not Reported in Crews, Tomato Farms, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945 1/

Type of Workers	: Number :	: Earnings on : Reporting Farm :			: Time Worked on : Reporting Farm :		
		: of Work- : ers :	: Hour- : ly :	: Dai- : ly :	: Week- : ly :	: Hours : per : Day :	: Days : per : Week :
All Seasonal Workers	300		\$1.11	\$ 9.10	\$33.50	8.2	3.7
Seasonal Piece-work Pickers	226		1.26	10.50	37.80	8.3	3.6
Seasonal Time-work Pickers	69		.65	5.30	20.50	8.2	3.9
All Regular Workers	43		.52	4.70	24.70	9.1	5.2
Regular Workers Picking							
Tomatoes <u>2/</u>	36		.53	4.80	24.50	9.0	5.1
Other Workers <u>3/</u>	12		.53	4.30	22.00	8.1	5.1

- 1/ Seasonal workers are those having expected employment duration of less than 150 days on the reporting farm. Regular workers are those having employment duration of 150 days or more.
- 2/ The sample of regular workers includes only 3 piece-workers and is thus too small for a breakdown between piece and time workers.
- 3/ Includes 7 regular workers and 5 seasonal workers.

The 43 regular workers employed on sample farms averaged 47 hours of work during the week, and had average weekly earnings of \$24.70. The 300 seasonal workers not reported in crews averaged 31 hours of employment, but, with average hourly earnings more than double those of the regular workers, they earned an average of \$33.50 during the week on the reporting farms. Hours of work did not vary much between seasonally employed piece-work pickers and seasonally employed time-work pickers. Hourly, daily and weekly earnings of the former were about double those of the latter. The earnings of regular workers picking tomatoes were similar to those of other workers on tomato farms -- those not principally employed in the tomato harvest. Only three regular workers were paid at piece rates.

Table 16.--Distribution of Seasonal and Regular Workers by Hourly Earnings, Tomato Farms, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Hourly Earnings:	Number of Individual Workers						Number of Workers in Crews With		
	:Seasonal:			:Seasonal:			:Average Hourly Earnings Shown		
	:Piece-:Time-:Workers:			:Workers:			:Seasonal :Seasonal		
	: Total	:work	:work	:Picking	: Workers	:	: Total	:Piece-work:Time-work	:
	: Pickers	: Pickers	: Pickers	: Tomatoes:	:	:	: Pickers	: Pickers	:
Total	343	226	69	36	12	:	283	130	153
Less than						:			
\$.20	2	-	1	1	-	:	-	-	-
\$.20- .39	16	-	4	11	1	:	-	-	-
.40- .59	46	11	17	10	8	:	86	7	79
.60- .79	80	29	40	9	2	:	30	4	26
.80- .99	35	29	3	<u>1/3</u>	-	:	35	17	18
1.00- 1.19	48	43	4	1	-	:	38	8	30
1.20- 1.39	38	37	-	-	1	:	19	19	-
1.40- 1.59	17	17	-	-	-	:	25	25	-
1.60- 1.79	22	22	-	-	-	:	23	23	-
1.80- 1.99	6	6	-	-	-	:	15	15	-
2.00- 2.19	15	14	-	<u>2/1</u>	-	:	-	-	-
2.20- 2.39	15	15	-	-	-	:	12	12	-
2.40- 2.59	3	3	-	-	-	:	-	-	-
2.60- 2.79	-	-	-	-	-	:	-	-	-
Average	\$1.00	\$1.26	\$.65	\$.53	\$.53	:	\$1.06	\$1.44	\$.64
Hourly Earnings						:			

1/ Includes 2 at piece-rates.

2/ Piece-rate picker.

The 343 workers reported on individually had average hourly earnings of \$1.00, while the 283 reported in crews earned an average of \$1.06. The range in hourly earnings between individuals and between crews was unusually wide. About 20 percent of all individually reported workers earned less than 60 cents per hour, and 10 percent earned over \$2.00 per hour. Seasonal piece-work pickers had the highest earnings, and 70 percent of these workers earned more than \$1.00 per hour. Only 6 percent of the seasonal time-work pickers earned more than \$1.00 per hour. Regular workers who picked tomatoes were chiefly employed at time rates. Their earnings were somewhat lower than those of the seasonal time-work pickers, and similar to those of the 12 "other workers" on the sample tomato farms. The average hourly earnings of crews paid at piece rates varied from 40 cents to \$2.40, and of time-work crews, from 40 cents to \$1.20.

The extreme variations in hourly earnings of seasonal workers reflect the fact that any available type of help was pressed into service under the urgent necessity arising from weather and labor conditions and the perishability of the crop. Probably some variation is due also to the fact that many persons were employed for such short periods that the influences which usually tend to stabilize wage rates for a given input of work did not have an opportunity to take effect.

Table 17.--Distribution of Seasonal and Regular Workers by Number of Days Worked on the Reporting Farm, Tomato Farms, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Number of Days Worked During Survey Week on Reporting Farm	Number of Individual Workers					Crew Workers			
	: Seasonal	: Seasonal	: Regular	: Other	: Workers	: Seasonal Piece-Work Crews	: Seasonal Time-Work Crews	: Seasonal	: Regular
	: Piece-	: Time-	: Workers	: Pickers	: Workers	: Number	: Average	: Number	: Average
	: Total	: work	: work	: Tomatoes	: of	: Number	: of	: Number	: of
	: Pickers	: Pickers	: Tomatoes	: of	: Crews	: of	: Crews	: of	: Crews
	:	:	:	:	:	: Workers	:	: Workers	:
Total	343	226	69	36	12	25	130	19	153
1	26	21	5	-	-	5	28	4	35
2	58	51	5	-	2	2	12	3	22
3	40	23	13	4	-	2	10	6	49
4	79	47	24	7	1	10	51	4	23
5	93	68	16	8	1	3	14	2	24
6	45	16	6	15	8	2	8	-	-
7	2	-	-	2	-	1	7	-	-
Average Days Worked	3.9	3.6	3.8	5.1	5.1	-	3.5	-	2.9

Twenty-six individual workers and 9 crews of workers were employed on only one day on the reporting farms during the survey week. Fifty-eight individual workers and 5 crews had 2 days of such employment. Less than half of the workers were employed on 5 or more days on the reporting farms, although 5 days during the survey week were fairly suitable for field work. These data suggest that the "on reporting farm" hours and earnings may give results materially below the workers' total weekly hours and earnings in this survey. Similarly, because the same workers may be reported on more than one farm, indications of total numbers of workers may tend to be high. Hourly earnings, estimates of total man-hours, and the total wage bill, as well as the various percentage breakdowns, should be unaffected.

Table 18.--Distribution of Seasonal and Regular Workers Not Reported in Crews by Weekly Earnings on the Reporting Farm, Tomato Farms, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945. 1/

Weekly Earnings on Reporting Farm	Number of Individual Workers					Other Workers
	: Total	: Seasonal	: Seasonal	: Regular	: Other	
	: Piece-	: Piece-work	: Time-work	: Workers	: Pick-	
	: Pickers	: Pickers	: Pickers	: ing Tomatoes	: Workers	
Total	343	226	69	36	12	
Under \$10	33	21	11	1	-	
\$ 10 - \$19	70	32	21	12	5	
20 - 29	95	49	25	15	6	
30 - 39	43	29	7	2/7	-	
40 - 49	28	23	4	-	1	

(Table continued on page 16)

Table 18.--Distribution of Seasonal and Regular Workers Not Reported in Crews by Weekly Earnings on the Reporting Farm, Tomato Farms, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945. 1/ (Concluded)

Weekly Earnings on Reporting Farm	Number of Individual Workers				
	Total	Seasonal	Seasonal	Regular	Other
		Piece-work	Time-work	Workers Pick-	
		Pickers	Pickers	ing Tomatoes	
\$ 50 - \$59	19	18	1	-	-
60 - 69	28	28	-	-	-
70 - 79	14	14	-	-	-
80 - 89	3	3	-	-	-
90 - 99	8	8	-	-	-
100 and over	2	1	-	3/1	-
Average Weekly Earnings	\$32.40	\$38.10	\$20.90	\$24.50	\$22.00

1/ Weekly earnings are not available for crew workers. Many crew workers were casual day laborers or foreign workers who worked on several farms during a week.

2/ Includes 2 paid at piece rates.

3/ Piece-rate picker.

Weekly earnings on the reporting farms are shown only for individual workers. About a third of the seasonal workers employed at piece rates earned over \$50.00 during the week. Most of the seasonal time-workers earned between \$15.00 and \$30.00, with a scattering above and below.

Perquisites Received.—More than half of all workers received perquisites in addition to cash wages. The most valuable of these was housing. Very few seasonal workers received meals but nearly a third of the regular workers received board and room. In all, about 60 percent of the regular workers received house or lodging. Seasonal workers more often were provided transportation to and from work. Lunches, vegetables or other produce, meat or fuel, were occasionally reported, but probably less than five percent of all workers received one or more of these items.

Table 19.--Percent of Hired Workers Receiving Specified Perquisites, Tomato Farms, Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

Item					
	Total	Seas-	Seas-	Regular:	Other
		onal	onal	Workers:	
		Piece-	Time-	Picking:	
		work	work	Toma-	Workers
		Pickers	Pickers	atoes	
Total number of workers	714	395	265	41	13
Percent	100	100	100	100	100
Receiving house or lodging and meals 1/ (Percent)	5	3	4	32	8
" " " " without " (Percent)	14	18	3	29	54
" other perquisites 2/ (Percent)	42	43	47	12	23
" no perquisites (Percent)	39	36	46	27	15

1/ "Meals" are defined as "2 or more meals per day."

2/ The principal other perquisites reported in order of frequency, are transportation, lunches, vegetables and other produce, meat and fuel.

Any comparison of the earnings of workers receiving specified perquisites with those of workers not receiving such perquisites is apt to be misleading because workers who differ with respect to major perquisite items are likely to differ in other important respects as well. Thus, regular year-round workers are often more likely to receive house or lodging than seasonal workers. Migrant seasonal workers who travel long distances to their jobs, and who are often provided lodging, are an entirely different type of labor from locally recruited emergency help which may include a large proportion of part-time women workers and other underemployed adults, as well as very young workers. Cash wage rates of foreign workers are stabilized through government regulations and cannot be reduced below specified levels to compensate for perquisites which may be received in addition.

The comparison of earnings of workers receiving and those not receiving the major perquisite item - house or lodging - has been limited to domestic pickers in order to eliminate some of the sources of irrelevant variation.

Table 20.--Time Worked and Earnings of Domestic Tomato Pickers Receiving House or Lodging and Those not Receiving House or Lodging (for Workers not Reported in Crews), Monroe and Orleans Counties, New York, Week Ended September 22, 1945.

	:Number: : of :Workers:	Earnings on Reporting Farm			Time Worked on Reporting Farm		
		:Hourly:	:Daily:	:Weekly:	:Hours per Day	:Days per Week	:Hours per Week
Total Domestic Pickers	255	\$.84	\$6.90	\$25.60	8.3	3.7	31
Receiving house or lodging	65	.73	6.20	29.30	8.5	4.7	40
Not " " " "	190	.89	7.30	24.30	8.2	3.3	27
Piece-work pickers	159	1.05	8.50	28.60	8.1	3.4	28
Receiving house or lodging	30	1.13	9.10	37.90	8.1	4.2	34
Not " " " "	129	1.03	8.30	26.40	8.1	3.2	26
Time-work pickers	96	.57	4.90	20.60	8.5	4.2	36
Receiving house or lodging	35	.48	4.20	21.90	8.8	5.2	46
Not " " " "	61	.65	5.40	19.90	8.2	3.7	30

Of the 255 domestic pickers not reported in crews, 65 were provided house or lodging in addition to cash wages. These 65 had average hourly earnings of 73 cents, or nearly 20 percent below those of the remaining domestic pickers. However, the workers who were housed were more fully employed during the survey week and thus had weekly earnings on the reporting farms of \$5.00 more per week than those not receiving house or lodging.

Only 30 of 159 domestic piece-work pickers received house or lodging, while 35 of 96 time-work pickers were housed. The piece-workers receiving house or lodging actually had higher hourly earnings than the remaining piece-workers, as well as fuller employment during the week. Their weekly earnings of \$37.90 were far above corresponding earnings for workers not receiving house. In this case the difference reflects a difference in type of workers, since the number of workers not receiving house or lodging included a large proportion of local women and youths. Most of the Negro workers in the sample received house or lodging.

The 35 time-work pickers receiving house had hourly cash earnings of only 48 cents, but had a fuller work week than any other group, with resultant weekly earnings of \$21.90.

Method of Survey.--Data were obtained from a sample of farms having hired workers harvesting tomatoes during the survey week. About 2000 farms grow tomatoes in Monroe and Orleans Counties, but probably a fourth of these - farms with the smaller acreages - used no hired labor for the harvest. About 10 percent of the acreage is too thinly scattered in the southern parts of the counties to permit an effective sampling. The remaining 90 percent of the acreage is located in a strip of land extending about 40 miles west of Rochester along the lake, and in two smaller areas to the east and south of Rochester. These principal tomato producing areas were outlined on maps with the help of county agents and others familiar with the locality. They were then divided into segments of about 4 square miles, bounded by roads, and numbered in systematic sequence across the two counties. By taking every third segment as numbered, a sample consisting of 31 segments - 16 in Monroe County and 15 in Orleans County - was specified. These segments included a cross-section of all sizes and types of tomato farms throughout the intensive production area. The 31 sample segments included somewhat less than 30 percent of all tomato farms in the two counties, but accounted for a total of 30 percent of the tomato acreage and 30 percent of the hired workers employed in the tomato harvest. Enumerators visited all farms in the sample segments but obtained wage information only from those having hired tomato harvest workers during the survey week. Because of a small margin of incompleteness, the 701 tomato harvest workers included in this report are believed to be about 25 percent, rather than 30 percent, of all such persons employed in the two counties during the survey week.

II. WAGES IN THE BEET HARVEST, ONTARIO COUNTY,
WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 20, 1945 2/

Area Surveyed.---Most of the beets grown in Ontario County are sold to canneries of which there are about 20 throughout the area. New York State raised about 5200 acres of beets for canning in 1945 and about half of this acreage is in Ontario County. New York State produced about a third of all beets for processing in the United States in 1945.

Of the several varieties of beets, Detroit Dark Red beets predominate in this county. These beets have large foliage and they can be harvested satisfactorily by machine.

As beets are hardy enough to resist early frosts, the harvest extends from the middle of September until the ground is frozen in November. Sometimes beets are harvested and stored in pits covered with straw or otherwise stored on the farm. In this way, beets can be taken to the canning factory at any time and the processing can continue all winter.

In Ontario County beets are harvested by three different methods. The harvester method is the most efficient and is commonly used by large growers. Usually, harvesters are rented from canning companies. Before the harvester can be used, "roads" must be made through the fields. Frequently, the roll-top is used for this purpose. The beet harvester pulls the beets, tops them and loads them into trucks. The harvester is pulled by a tractor at the rate of about four miles an hour. One man drives a tractor, another man operates the harvester, and two or more workers drive trucks. Frequently, the man operating the harvester is an employee of the canning factory.

The roll-top method requires more labor. Two or three workers pull beets from several rows and put them on the roll-top or workers may pile beets in one row after which other workers place the beets on the roll-top. The machine tops the beets and puts them in bushel crates. One person operates the roll-top and removes the crates as they are filled. Frequently, growers own roll-tops, but some farmers rent them.

On some farms beets are pulled by hand. During the 1945 harvest season, in fact, some of the beet fields were so wet that farmers owning roll-tops had to harvest the crop by hand. Although more than half of the sample workers were engaged in hand harvesting methods, only 20 percent of the sample farms were using this method. The roll-top method was used on the largest number of sample farms. The mechanical harvester is even more efficient than the roll-top and some farmers indicated that they were using hand labor only because they were uncertain of being able to rent a harvester.

Table 1.--Distribution of Acreage on Sample Farms and Hired Beet Harvest Workers by Method of Harvesting Beets, Ontario County, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Method of Harvesting	: :	Number of Acres	: :	Total Number of Hired Beet Harvest Workers 1/
Harvester	:	152	:	12
Roll-top	:	286	:	95
By hand	:	198	:	116

1/ Truck drivers hired on a custom basis were not included in the sample. A few persons who spent only part of the time worked on reporting farm during the survey week in the beet harvest are excluded.

2/ Prepared by Helen Clark.

Although the survey was made after the end of the war, when the demand for industrial labor was slackening, the cost and supply of harvest labor were not noticeably affected by these conditions.

Available workers were needed to help harvest the perishable tomato crop until the frost occurred during the first week of October. Crops requiring harvest labor in October were: beets, silage corn, cabbage, carrots and beans. Rainy weather kept the fields wet as the season advanced and made harvesting work unpleasant. As the work piled up, many farmers became very anxious to save marketable crops from ruin by weather conditions.

Government contracts for beets for dehydration were cancelled shortly before the survey was made. This limited the market for beets at that time and may have resulted in a concentration of effort on the harvest of other crops.

Per unit costs of hired labor for the different methods of harvesting were difficult to obtain. Often family workers performed some of the harvest operations and records were available only for the total performance on the farm during the survey week. Rough approximations based on total performance and costs, and therefore giving cost estimates that are somewhat low, indicate that the hand method is more costly than mechanical methods. Hired labor costs with the harvester were about one cent per bushel, with an additional 5 cents charge for rental of the machine. Hired labor costs with the roll-top averaged 6.7 cents per bushel, and by hand, 11.3 cents. Records of individual performance were available for persons harvesting by hand at piece rates and for these a more exact cost estimate of 14 cents per bushel was obtained.

On 49 farms, records were obtained on 250 hired workers, or about a third of all workers employed on farms in the county's beet harvest during the third week in October. The sample farms had an average of 14 acres of beets, which is higher than the average for all beet farms. This high average resulted from the fact that the sample was designed to obtain a maximum of hired worker information, and omitted entirely the small farms employing only family labor.

Table 2.--Distribution of Sample Farms and Hired Workers by Acreage of Beets, Ontario County, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Acres of Beets	:	Number of Farms	:	Total Number of Workers	:	Average Workers per Farm
Total	:	49	:	1/250	:	5
Under 15 acres	:	35	:	146	:	4
15 - 24 acres	:	9	:	45	:	5
25 acres and over	:	5	:	59	:	12

1/ This is the total number of workers on sample farms. Totals appearing in subsequent tables will be slightly less because not all items were reported for all workers.

On the average, more hired workers were employed on farms with large beet acreages than on farms with few acres of beets. An average of 5 hired workers per sample farm were employed during the survey week.

Type of Workers.--Harvesters or roll-tops were used on 80 percent of the farms in the sample. Harvesters were frequently operated by canning factory employees. Roll-tops, trucks and tractors were usually run by the farm operator, other family workers, or by regularly employed hired men. Truck drivers hired on a custom basis were not included in this survey of hired farm workers. About a sixth of the male workers who were engaged exclusively in the beet harvest were machine operators. No females operated machines.

Groups of school children were employed to pull or pull and top beets to make road-ways for the harvester. Other workers threw beets to the roll-top. As throwing beets or pulling and throwing to the roll-top requires somewhat more strength and skill, adults usually performed this operation. Men were used to remove crates from the roll-top and load trucks.

Table 3.--Distribution of Hired Workers by Sex and Operation, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Operation	: Total Reported :		:		:	
	: by Sex :		Males		Females	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
All-Workers	233	100	154	100	79	100
All Beet Harvest Workers	206	88	128	83	78	99
Machine Operators	20	8	20	13	-	-
Throwing to Topper						
or Loading Trucks	40	17	23	15	17	22
Pulling and topping	146	63	85	55	61	77
Other Workers	27	12	26	17	1	1

In this report, persons who worked only in the beet harvest on the reporting farm during the survey week are referred to as "beet harvest workers." Those workers who spent only part of their working time in the beet harvest are classed as other workers.

Table 4.--Distribution of Regular and Seasonal Workers by Race and Source, Sex, Age, Operation, and Method of Payment, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Item Reported	: All :		: Regular :		: Seasonal :	
	: Workers :		: Workers 1/ :		: Workers 1/ :	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
Total Reported by Race and Source	250	100	48	100	202	100
Domestic White	243	97	47	98	196	97
Other 2/	7	3	1	2	6	3
Total Reported by Sex	233	100	48	100	185	100
Males	154	66	48	100	106	57
Females	79	34	-	-	79	43
Total Reported by Age 3/	152	100	48	100	104	100
18 - 64	89	59	40	83	49	47
Under 18 and Over 64	63	41	8	17	55	53

(Table continued on page 22)

Table 4.--Distribution of Regular and Seasonal Workers by Race and Source, Sex, Age, Operation, and Method of Payment, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945. (Concluded)

Item Reported	: All		: Regular		: Seasonal	
	: Workers		: Workers 1/		: Workers 1/	
	:Number	:Percent	:Number	:Percent	:Number	:Percent
Total Reported by Operation	250	100	48	100	202	100
Beet Harvest Workers	223	89	25	52	198	98
Other Workers	27	11	23	48	4	2
Total Reported by Method of Payment	250	100	48	100	202	100
Piece Rate	119	48	-	-	119	59
Hourly Rate	88	35	8	17	80	40
Daily Rate	3	1	-	-	3	1
Weekly Rate	14	5	14	29	-	-
Monthly Rate	26	11	26	54	-	-

- 1/ Regular means 150 days or more expected duration of employment on reporting farm in 1945; Seasonal means less than 150 days expected duration of employment on reporting farm in 1945.
- 2/ Includes 4 prisoners of war, 1 Negro, and 2 workers with source not reported.
- 3/ Workers employed in crews are omitted, because age information was not obtained.

Ninety-seven percent of all workers were domestic (non-foreign) white workers. Only 4 prisoners of war were included in the sample. Two sample farms obtained workers through labor contractors during the survey week.

Of those workers reported by sex, 66 percent were male. All regular workers and 57 percent of the seasonal workers reporting sex were male.

More than half of the seasonally employed workers were under 18 or over 64. This fact probably reflects the tight labor situation during the 1945 harvest season. Of the regularly employed male workers less than 20 percent were under 18 or over 64.

Eighty-nine percent of all beet harvest workers were seasonally employed. Of the seasonal workers, 59 percent received piece wage rates and none were paid by the week or month. Of the regular workers, 83 percent were paid by the week or month and none received piece or daily rates.

Table 5.--Duration of Employment of Hired Workers by Beet Acreage, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Acres of Beets	: Total Reported by		: Total Regular		: Total Seasonal	
	: Duration of		: Workers (150		: Workers (Less	
	: Employment		: days or over)		: than 150 days) 1/	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
Under 15	146	100	23	16	123	84
15 - 24	45	100	9	20	36	80
25 and over	59	100	16	27	43	73

- 1/ Includes crew workers who are practically all seasonally employed, and for whom information on duration of employment was not requested.

On farms having 25 or more acres of beets, 27 percent of the total number of workers were regularly employed; on farms with less than 15 acres of beets, 16 percent of the workers were regularly employed.

Table 6.--Distribution of Hired Workers by Age, Sex and Operation, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945. 1/

Age and Sex	All Workers	Beet Harvest Workers				
		: Throw- Machine : Pulling Opera- : or tors : Topper, : Pulling : Loading : and : Trucks : Topping	Number	Number	Number	Number
Total Reported by Age and Sex	152	100	20	40	65	27
18 - 64	89	59	18	21	30	20
Under 18 and Over 64	63	41	2	19	35	7
Males	111	100	20	23	42	26
Males 18 - 64	73	66	18	17	18	20
Males Under 18 and Over 64	38	34	2	6	24	6
Females	41	100	-	17	23	1
Females 18 - 64	16	39	-	4	12	-
Females Under 18 and Over 64	25	61	-	13	11	1

1/ Workers employed in crews are omitted as age information was not obtained.

Sixty-one percent of all female workers were under 18 or over 64. These workers were engaged in pulling, pulling and topping, or throwing beets to the roll-top. Of the male workers reported by age, only 34 percent were under 18 or over 64 years of age.

Wage Rates, Hours, and Earnings.--In the tables on earnings, total weekly wages are divided by man-hours in order to convert earnings to the comparable hourly basis. Earnings are the actual earnings which workers received during the specified week. Rates of workers hired through labor contractors are net rates with contractors' fees deducted. Wage information for workers hired on a custom basis was used only when the earnings received by the workers could be determined.

Table 7.--Distribution of Piece-workers by Rates Received for Pulling and Topping Beets, and Related Information, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Rate per Bushel	Number of Workers	Percent of Total
Total Reporting Rate	119	100
\$.12	34	29
.13	5	4
.14	30	25
.15	15	13
.16	35	29

Related Information for Piece-workers:

Average Rate per Bushel 1/ \$.14
Average Hourly Earnings .72
Average Number of Bushels
picked per Hour 5

1/ Weighted by number of workers.

Fifty-three percent of all beet harvest workers were paid piece rates. All piece-workers were paid by bushel crate (about 52 lbs.), with most workers receiving 12 cents, 14 cents, or 16 cents per crate. Twenty-nine workers paid at 12-cent rates were performing only one operation, pulling or topping. All other piece-workers were pulling and topping beets. The average performance of piece-workers was five bushels per hour and the average rate per bushel was 14 cents.

Table 8.--Time Worked and Earnings of Piece and Time Workers, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Type of Workers	:Number:		Earnings on			: Time Worked on		
	: of :		Reporting Farm			Reporting Farm		
	:Work-		:Hour-	:Dai-	:Week-	:Hours	:Days	:Hours
	:ers	: ly	: ly	: ly	: ly	:per	:per	:per
	:	:	:	:	:	:Day	:Week	:Week
All Workers Reported by Method								
of Payment	244	\$.58	\$4.80	\$18.60	8.3	3.9	32	
Piece-workers	119	.72	6.40	20.80	8.8	3.3	29	
Time-workers	125	.47	3.70	16.50	8.0	4.4	35	
All Regular Workers Reported								
by Method of Payment <u>1/</u>	46	.42	4.00	23.10	9.5	5.8	56	
Piece-workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Time-workers	46	.42	4.00	23.10	9.5	5.8	56	
All Seasonal Workers Reported								
by Method of Payment <u>2/</u>	198	.66	5.20	17.50	7.8	3.4	27	
Piece-workers	119	.72	6.40	20.80	8.8	3.3	29	
Time-workers	79	.54	3.50	12.70	6.5	3.6	24	

- 1/ Regular workers are those with 150 or more days' work expected on the reporting farm; seasonal workers are those with less than 150 days' work expected on reporting farm.
- 2/ Includes 105 workers reported in crews. These workers were groups hired through labor contractors, groups of school children, or prisoners of war.

Piece-workers earned 25 cents per hour more than did workers paid at time rates. Workers paid at time rates worked 35 hours during the survey week, compared with 29 hours worked by piece-workers. Thirty-one percent of all time-workers are regularly employed and paid by the month or week.

Regular workers, all of them male, earned 42 cents an hour, compared with 66 cents an hour for seasonal workers, but regular workers put in more than twice as many hours as seasonal workers, resulting in higher weekly earnings for regular workers. Seven regular workers reporting earnings were paid by the hour; all other regular workers were paid by the month or week. All seasonal time-workers were paid by the day or hour. Because of the very significant differences in hours and earnings between regular and seasonal workers, these groups are analyzed separately in some of the following tables.

Table 9.--Time Worked and Earnings by Operation, Duration of Employment and Method of Payment, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Type of Workers	:Number: Earnings on				: Time Worked on		
	: of : Reporting Farm				: Reporting Farm		
	:Work-	:Hour-	:Dai-	:Week-	:Hours	:Days	:Hours
	: ers	: ly	: ly	: ly	: per	: per	: per
	:	:	:	:	:Day	:Week	:Week
Beet Harvest Workers Reported by Duration of Employment <u>1/</u>	218	\$.62	\$5.00	\$18.30	8.1	3.6	29
Regular Time-workers	24	.45	4.30	24.00	9.4	5.6	53
Seasonal Piece-workers <u>2/</u>	119	.72	6.40	20.80	8.8	3.3	29
Seasonal Time-workers <u>2/</u>	75	.54	3.50	12.50	6.5	3.5	23
Other Workers Reported by Duration of Employment <u>1/</u>	26	.39	3.60	21.20	9.3	5.8	54
Regular Time-workers	22	.38	3.70	22.20	9.6	6.0	58
Seasonal Time-workers <u>2/</u>	4	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>

1/ Regular workers are those with 150 or more days' work expected on the reporting farm; seasonal workers are those with less than 150 days' work expected on the reporting farm.

2/ Includes workers reported in crews.

3/ Averages not shown because they were based on the experience of only 4 workers.

Time worked and earnings of "beet harvest" regular time-workers and "other" regular time-workers are quite similar. Several "other" workers spent part of the time worked on the reporting farm in the beet harvest during the survey week. For these reasons and because the sample is small, the earnings of "beet harvest" workers and "other" workers on sample farms are not analyzed separately in the following tables.

Table 10.--Time Worked and Earnings of Hired Workers by Duration of Employment and Size of Beet Acreage, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Type of Workers and Size of Beet Acreage	:Number: Earnings on				: Time Worked on		
	: of : Reporting Farm				: Reporting Farm		
	:Work-	:Hour-	:Dai-	:Week-	:Hours	:Days	:Hours
	: ers	: ly	: ly	: ly	: per	: per	: per
	:	:	:	:	:Day	:Week	:Week
All Workers Reported by Duration of Employment <u>1/</u>	244	\$.58	\$4.80	\$18.60	8.3	3.9	32
Under 15 acres of beets	142	.57	4.30	13.00	7.6	3.0	23
15 and over acres of beets	102	.59	5.20	26.40	8.9	5.1	45
All regular workers	46	.42	4.00	23.10	9.5	5.8	56
All seasonal workers <u>2/</u>	198	.66	5.20	17.50	7.8	3.4	27
Under 15 acres of beets	120	.70	4.70	11.80	6.8	2.5	17
15 and over acres of beets	78	.63	5.50	26.30	8.6	4.8	41

1/ Regular workers are those with 150 or more days' work expected on the reporting farm; seasonal workers are those with less than 150 days' work expected on the reporting farm.

2/ Includes 105 workers reported in crews.

Due to the wide variation in hourly earnings between individuals and the small number of farms included in the sample, no consistent relationship between acres of beets on reporting farms and hourly earnings of hired workers is apparent. Reporting farms with 15 or more acres of beets provided over twice as many hours of employment during the survey week as farms with less than 15 acres of beets. This resulted in higher weekly earnings on farms with the larger beet acreages.

Table 11.--Time Worked and Earnings for Regular and Seasonal Workers 1/ by Age and Sex, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Type of Workers	:Number:		Earnings on			: Time Worked on		
	: of :		Reporting Farm			Reporting Farm		
	:Work-	:Hour-	:Dai-	:Week-		:Hours	:Days	:Hours
	:ers	:ly	:ly	:ly		:per	:per	:per
	:	:	:	:		:Day	:Week	:Week
Regular Workers Reported by Sex								
Males	46	\$.42	\$4.00	\$23.10		9.5	5.8	56
18 - 64	38	.43	4.10	24.30		9.7	5.9	57
Under 18 and Over 64	8	.36	3.10	17.60		8.8	5.6	49
Females	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Seasonal Workers Reported by Sex <u>3/</u>								
Males <u>2/</u>	73	.53	3.80	11.80		7.3	3.1	22
18 - 64	29	.52	4.40	17.10		8.4	3.9	33
Under 18 and Over 64	29	.50	2.90	9.70		5.8	3.3	19
Females <u>2/</u>	59	.68	4.60	12.90		6.7	2.8	19
18 - 64	16	.79	6.80	29.60		8.6	4.4	37
Under 18 and Over 64	23	.50	2.20	7.50		4.5	3.3	15

- 1/ Regular workers are those with 150 or more days' work expected on the reporting farm; seasonal workers are those with less than 150 days' work expected on the reporting farm.
- 2/ Includes some workers with age not reported.
- 3/ Includes workers reported in crews. Age information not requested from crew workers.

Each age group of seasonally employed male workers received higher hourly rates, worked fewer hours and earned less money for the week's work than the corresponding age group of regularly employed male workers.

Workers 18-64 years of age received higher hourly rates, worked more hours and received higher weekly earnings than other workers of the same sex and duration of employment. A large proportion of the "older and younger" workers were school children who pulled and topped beets after school to make road-ways for the harvester.

Table 12.--Distribution of Seasonal and Regular Workers by Hourly Earnings, Beet Farms, Ontario County, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Hourly Earnings	Individual Workers				Crew Workers		
	Seasonal		Seasonal		Seasonal		Seasonal
	Total	Piece-	Time-	Time-	Total	Piece-	Time-
		workers	workers	workers		workers	workers
Total	139	18	75	46	105	101	4
Less than \$.25	9	3	-	6	-	-	-
\$.25-\$.44	20	1	4	15	8	8	-
.45-.64	87	8	56	23	48	44	4
.65-.84	17	1	15	1	35	35	-
.85-1.04	3	3	-	-	-	-	-
1.05-1.24	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
1.25-1.44	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
1.45 and over	-	-	-	-	14	14	-
Average Hourly Earnings	\$.50	\$.72	\$.54	\$.42	\$.71	\$.73	\$.50

The range in hourly earnings of all workers was from 11 cents to \$2.07, with only one crew of 14 workers earning more than \$1.44 an hour. Fifty-five percent of the workers whose earnings were reported received from 45 to 64 cents per hour. The average earnings for all workers with wages reported were 58 cents per hour. The range was greatest for seasonal piece-workers. This is partly owing to the fact that types of workers varied greatly among piece-workers, who included workers hired through labor contractors, groups of school children, women and able-bodied men. All regular workers reporting wages were male, of whom 83 percent were 18-64 years of age.

Table 13.--Distribution of Seasonal and Regular Workers by Number of Days Worked on the Reporting Beet Farm, Ontario County, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Number of Days Worked: During Sur- vey Week on: Reporting Farm	Individual Workers				Crew Workers		
	Seasonal		Seasonal		Seasonal		Seasonal
	Total	Piece-	Time-	Time-	Total	Piece-	Time-
		workers	workers	workers		workers	workers
Total	139	18	75	46	105	101	4
1	8	1	7	-	38	38	-
2	18	3	13	2	14	14	-
3	27	6	20	1	-	-	-
4	18	1	16	1	19	19	-
5	15	-	12	3	-	-	-
6	43	7	5	31	34	30	4
7	10	-	2	8	-	-	-
Average days Worked	4.3	3.9	3.5	5.8	3.3	3.2	6.0

Fifty-eight percent of the workers had less than 5 days of work on the reporting farms during the survey week. Although the weather was pleasant, the fields did not become dry enough to permit harvest operations on most farms until late in the week. Only the regularly employed time-workers and the prisoners of war worked an average of 6 days on sample farms during the week.

Perquisites Received.---Thirty-four percent of the regularly employed domestic white workers received board and room. Forty percent of the regularly employed domestic white workers received house or lodging without meals, while only ten percent of the seasonally employed workers received house or lodging. Thirteen percent of all seasonally employed workers were related to the farm operator and most of them received items in addition to cash wages. Twenty-nine percent of all regularly employed workers were related to the farm operator, but several regularly employed workers not related to the farm operator were receiving items of considerable economic value in addition to cash wages.

Table 14.--Percent of Domestic White Workers Receiving Specified Perquisites, Beet Farms, Ontario County, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Item	Domestic White Workers 1/		
	Total	Regular	Seasonal
		(150 days or	(Less than
		more)	150 days)
Total Number of Workers	243	47	196
Percent	100	100	100
Receiving house or lodging and meals 2/ (Percent)	13	34	8
Receiving house or lodging without meals (Percent)	10	40	2
Receiving other perquisites (Percent)	16	15	16
Receiving no perquisites (Percent)	61	11	74

- 1/ Domestic workers are citizens of the United States. Prisoners of war are excluded.
2/ Meals are defined as 2 or more meals per day.

Table 15.--Time Worked and Earnings of Domestic White Workers by Duration of Employment and Perquisites Received, Ontario County Beet Farms, New York, Week Ended October 20, 1945.

Type of Workers	Number of Workers	Earnings on Reporting Farm			Time Worked on Reporting Farm		
		Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per Day	Days per Week	Hours per Week
		: ly	: ly	: ly	: per	: per	: per
		:	:	:	: Day	: Week	: Week
All Domestic White Workers Reported by Duration of Employment 1/	237	\$.58	\$4.80	\$18.50	8.3	3.8	32
Regular workers receiving house or lodging	34	.39	3.80	22.70	9.7	5.9	58
Regular workers not receiving house or lodging	11	.51	4.60	25.00	9.0	5.5	49
Seasonal workers receiving house or lodging 2/	20	.49	3.40	14.80	7.0	4.3	30
Seasonal workers not receiving house or lodging 2/	172	.69	5.40	17.70	7.9	3.3	26

- 1/ Regular workers are those with 150 or more days' work expected on the reporting farm; seasonal workers are those with less than 150 days' work expected on the reporting farm. Domestic whites are American nationals.
2/ Includes workers reported in crews most of whom are workers hired through labor contractors and groups of school children.

The economic value of perquisites received is reflected in the difference in wages between those who received house or lodging and those who did not. Regularly employed workers who received house or lodging earned 39 cents an hour as compared with 51 cents for those not receiving house or lodging. Regularly employed workers living on the operators' farms worked more hours during the survey week than other workers, but this did not make up for the marked difference in hourly earnings. Regularly employed workers not receiving house or lodging received about \$2.30 more for the week's work than other regularly employed workers.

A greater difference occurs between the wages of seasonal workers receiving house or lodging and the wages of seasonal workers not receiving house or lodging. This is partly owing to the greater differences in the types of seasonally employed workers than among regularly employed workers. Many of the seasonally employed domestic white workers receiving house or lodging were school children related to the farm operator.

Method of Survey.---Data were obtained from a sample of farms having hired workers harvesting beets during the survey week. There are about 300 growers having a total of about 3,000 acres of beets in Ontario County. About 90 percent of the acreage lies between Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes and extends northward as far as Clifton Springs. With the help of the county agent and a local representative of the U. S. Employment Service, the principal beet producing area was outlined on maps. The area was then divided into segments of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, bounded by roads, and numbered in systematic sequence within the five townships. Starting at random, alternate segments were drawn for the sample.

Information was obtained from all farms in the specified sample segments which had one or more hired workers employed in harvesting beets during the survey week. At that time, about half of the beet farms which were visited had no hired labor engaged in beet harvesting.

Due to the exclusion of 10 percent of the county acreage in outlying areas, and a small margin of incompleteness, workers on sample farms from whom information was obtained, are believed to include about a third of all hired workers employed in the harvest in Ontario County during the survey week.

III. WAGES IN THE STRAWBERRY HARVEST, ERIE COUNTY, WEEK ENDED JUNE 16, 1945 3/

Area Surveyed.--New York State has about 3,000 acres of strawberries, from which a crop valued at about 2.5 million dollars was harvested in 1945. A survey of the hours and earnings of strawberry pickers was made in Erie County, which is the principal producing area. A canvass of the Ulster County area, the State's second ranking strawberry production area, indicated that very little labor was hired specifically for the strawberry harvest there. The remaining acreage is scattered about the State, in the vicinities of various urban markets, and much of the crop in these areas is harvested by family labor or regular hired help. The Erie County area, with more than 1,000 acres in strawberries, has by far the greatest requirements for seasonal hired labor. The survey relates to the week ended June 16, the first week of the harvest, when pickings were lighter and earnings of workers lower than at the peak of harvest.

The strawberry harvest provides jobs of rather short duration, as 90 percent of the crop in any area is harvested over a period of a little over two weeks. The "berry migrants" ordinarily include a large proportion of women and youth. In the Erie County area, much of the harvest labor is drawn from the families of industrial workers in Buffalo and other nearby cities. When the short strawberry harvest is over, some of the workers find work in harvesting raspberries, for which Erie County is the major market area in the State. Snap beans, peas, tomatoes, and sweet corn also provide summer harvest jobs in this area, and many of the workers are continuously employed throughout the summer.

Because of the type of help used for strawberry picking, there has been no competition with industrial employment. During the war, however, industrial workers' families have found it less necessary than before to supplement their factory earnings with agricultural employment.

Table 1.--Summary of Sample Strawberry Farms and Pickers, Erie County, New York, Week Ended June 16, 1945. 1/

Number of farms	60
1945 strawberry acres	419
Average acres per farm	7.0
Number of pickers	1,492
Average pickers per farm	25
Percent of pickers under 18 years of age	68
Percent of pickers 18 years and over	32

1/ Throughout this report the terms "pickers" and "workers" mean hired strawberry pickers. The 1492 pickers included in this analysis did no other work on the reporting farms during the survey week. One farm in the sample, which had 5 hourly paid workers doing a combination of strawberry picking and other jobs, was excluded from the analysis.

The 60 sample farms employed an average of 25 paid pickers each, during the survey week. Nearly two-thirds of the farms had more than 10 pickers, and one had 150. One-third of the farms with hired pickers had two acres or less of strawberries and these averaged 8 pickers each. The crops on the remaining farms ranged up to 25 acres, with the 15 largest farms having an average of 48 workers each.

Table 2.--Distribution of Sample Farms by Acres of Strawberries and Number of Pickers Employed, Erie County, New York, Week Ended June 16, 1945.

Number of Hired Pickers	:	1945 Acres of Strawberries				
		Total	: 2 or less	: 3 to 5	: 6 to 10	: 11 to 25
Total farms		60	19	17	9	15
Total pickers		1492	150	274	343	725
Average number of pickers		25	8	16	38	48
1 to 5		10	7	3	-	-
6 to 10		12	8	4	-	-
11 to 25		19	4	7	4	4
26 to 50		12	-	3	3	6
51 to 75		6	-	-	2	4
76 to 100		-	-	-	-	-
Over 100		<u>1/1</u>	-	-	-	<u>1/1</u>

1/ 150 pickers on this farm.

Because of the large numbers of workers employed on the strawberry farms, it was not possible to get detailed information on individual workers. However, each farm was asked to report on the race and source of workers and to supply some general information on the age and sex of workers. All farms except one reported employing either women or youths under 18, usually in addition to adult males. Only four farms hired adults exclusively, while 23, including mostly smaller than average farms, had no adults.

Workers were classed as "migratory" if they were living in places not their regular homes. About two-thirds of the farms reported employing such "migratory workers." Many of the strawberry pickers were from urban areas within the county, but were living in camps away from home during the harvest period. The remaining pickers were "local workers." There was no imported foreign labor employed in the county at this time. Nearly all workers were white, with a small number of Negroes and Indians also reported. The latter were from the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in the southern part of the county.

Wage Rates, Hours and Earnings.--Pickers were employed at piece rates on all farms and only four farms paid a rate other than the standard 5 cents per quart rate. Three of these, employing a total of 50 pickers, paid 6 cents. One farmer who had difficulty in getting help employed one worker for 2 days at 7 cents a quart. Rates of picking varied widely -- from 2 quarts to over 20 quarts per hour, with a consequent variation in hourly earnings from about 10 cents to \$1.10. These variations are for the averages of all pickers employed on each sample farm, and undoubtedly there were somewhat greater variations between earnings of all individual workers.

Table 3.--Distribution of Sample Farms by Average Performance and Average Hourly Earnings of Pickers, Erie County, New York, Week Ended June 16, 1945.

Average : Performance : (Quarts : per Hour) :	Number of : Farms :	Number of : Pickers Em- : ployed on : These Farms :	Average : Hourly : Earnings :	Number of : Farms :	Number of : Pickers Em- : ployed on : These Farms :
Total	60	1492	Total	60	1492
Less than 5	17	459	Less than \$.25	16	429
5 - 8	17	573	\$.25-\$.40	18	603
8 -11	10	218	.40- .55	10	218
11 -14	10	146	.55- .70	9	145
14 and over	6	96	.70 and over	7	97

As indicated in Table 3, there were 16 farms on which the workers averaged less than 25 cents per hour (or 5 quarts to the hour at the standard rate). More than half the farms had workers' average hourly earnings under 40 cents. On 7 farms, employing 97 workers, average earnings were over 70 cents per hour.

It was possible to compute separate performance rates for persons under 18 years of age as compared with adults for about a fifth of the sample workers. For this small sample, the adults had an average performance rate of 10.8 quarts per hour compared with 6.2 for the workers under 18 years of age. At the standard rate, this results in hourly earnings of 54 cents for the adults, and 31 cents for those under 18. The average hourly earnings for all workers was 36 cents.

Workers in the sample averaged 5.9 days of work during the survey week, and had an average workday of 8.6 hours on the days on which they worked. This resulted in average daily earnings of \$3.10, and average weekly earnings of \$18.40 for the week of 51.2 hours.

Table 4.--Time Worked and Earnings of Pickers on Sample Strawberry Farms, Erie County, New York, Week Ended June 16, 1945.

	: Hourly :	: Daily :	: Weekly :
Time worked	-	8.6 hrs.	51.2 hrs.
Earnings	\$3.36	\$3.10	\$18.40

Average performance, hours, and earnings were found to vary with size of farm as indicated in Table 5.

Table 5.--Average Performance, Hours and Earnings for Strawberry Pickers by Size of Farm, Erie County, New York, Week Ended June 16, 1945.

Size of : Farm : (Acres of : Straw- berries) :	: Number : of : Farms :	: Number : of : Pickers :	: Average : Number of : Quarts : Picked : per Hour :	: Average : Hours Worked : During Week : on Reporting : Farm :	: Average : Hours Worked : During Week : on Reporting : Farm :	: Computed Average Earnings : at 5 cents per quart : Hourly : Weekly :
Total or Average	60	1492	<u>1</u> /7.2	51.2	<u>1</u> / \$.36	\$18.40
2 or less	19	150	6.1	29.5	.31	9.10
3 to 5	17	274	6.0	44.3	.30	13.30
6 to 10	9	343	7.2	55.4	.36	19.90
11 to 25	15	725	7.6	56.3	.38	21.40

1/ Weighted by number of hours.

Workers on smaller farms picked fewer quarts per hour and worked fewer hours on the reporting farms than those on larger farms. Presumably the harvest on many of the small farms did not last the whole week. The resultant weekly earnings of the workers on the 19 smallest farms were less than half those of the workers on the 24 largest farms. Probably some of the former worked on more than one farm during the survey week, in which case the survey failed to indicate their total weekly earnings.

In addition to cash wages, 4 pickers received board free. Transportation to and from work was furnished without charge to most of the workers.

Method of Survey.--The sample was obtained by canvassing all farms in segments or small land areas, specified on maps. The strawberry area in the county was divided into segments of about 10 square miles each, and six of these areas were selected at random. Information on the hours and earnings of workers was obtained from all farms within the sample segments having any hired strawberry pickers during the survey week.

